(b) The setting of a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of all matters relating to the Scheduled Tribes in a substantial and continuous way.

(c) A bill is being introduced.

Constitution of National Centre for Calamity Management

2869. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a National Centre for Calamity Management under the National Calamity Contingency Fund Scheme, if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to provide special assistance to the States facing natural calamities of rare severity by levying surcharge on taxes as provided under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) Schemes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) A proposal for the establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been initiated. The NDMA will *inter alia* be entrusted with the functions earlier proposed for the National Centre for Calamity Management (NCCM).

(b) The expenditure on response and relief for natural calamities is met primarily from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The contribution of the Central Government and the concerned State Government to CRF is 75% and 25% respectively. For calamities of severe nature where CRF is not sufficient, additional assistance is provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the concerned State Governments to meet the expenditure on providing immediate relief to the victims of the natural calamities.

Assistance to Rajasthan under NCCF

2870. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while assessing the assistance to be made/provided to Rajasthan under para 6.1 of the National Calamity Contingency Fund